

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OC-01 CCO-00 A-01 SCA-01 SCS-01

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R 231400Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1040

INFO DET 4 AFSCF MAHE ISLAND SEYCHELLES

AFSCF LOS ANGELES AFS CA/LGX

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NAIROBI 0651

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MILI APER US SE

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF
U.S. CONSULATE IN SEYCHELLES

1. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION. I BELIEVE TIME HAS COME WHEN OVERALL U.S. INTERESTS IN SEYCHELLES -- DIPLOMATIC, MILITARY, CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL -- SHOULD BE FURTHER SUPPORTED BY ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT U.S. CONSULAR-DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE ON MAHE ISLAND. ACCORDINGLY I RECOMMEND THAT STATE DEPARTMENT (AND USIA) TAKE APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO PERMIT OPENING OF SMALL CONSULATE AND USIS LIBRARY NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1975 WHICH WOULD AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE BECOME SMALL EMBASSY HEADED BY CHARGE. MY SUGGESTIONS
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RE SIZE, STAFFING AND LOGISTICS OF THIS MISSION ARE SET

FORTH IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

2. SIZE OF MISSION. CURRENT SCARCITY OF OFFICE SPACE IN MAHE AND EXCEPTIONAL SMALLNESS OF SEYCHELLES AS FUTURE INDEPENDENT COUNTRY (POPULATION APPROXIMATELY 55 THOUSAND) ARGUE STRONGLY AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE THAN MINIMAL SIZE EMBASSY. ALTHOUGH HOST GOVERNMENT MAY EVENTUALLY PRESS FOR RESIDENT U.S. AMBASSADOR, BELIEVE DECISION ON THIS QUESTION CAN BE POSTPONED UNTIL AT LEAST YEAR OR TWO AFTER INDEPENDENCE (WHICH WILL PROBABLY COME AT BEGINNING OF 1976). IN INTERIM, EMBASSY NAIROBI COULD PROVIDE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE AS REQUIRED. IF TRACKING STATION ABLE TO PROVIDE CERTAIN LOGISTIC SUPPORT (PER PARA 4 BELOW), I BELIEVE SIZE OF CONSULATE/EMBASSY COULD BE HELD TO TWO AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL (ONE OFFICER AND ONE SECRETARY), ONE LOCALLY-HIRED AMERICAN FOR USIS LIBRARY, AND TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

3. STAFFING. I BELIEVE PRINCIPAL OFFICER/CHARGE SHOULD BE FSO-4 OR FSO-3 WHO HAS PROVEN ABILITY TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN SMALL POST. HE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT HIS MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTION WILL BE TO SUPPORT U.S. MILITARY INTERESTS IN AREA AND SHOULD, THEREFORE, BE ABLE TO WORK HARMONIOUSLY WITH USAF TRACKING STATION PERSONNEL AND U.S. NAVY AS WELL AS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT. HE SHOULD BE QUALIFIED TO ISSUE NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS AND PASSPORTS, BUT EMBASSY NAIROBI COULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT ON MORE COMPLEX CONSULAR MATTERS SUCH AS ISSUANCE OF IMMIGRANT VISAS. OFFICER SHOULD NOT HAVE SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN. IF MARRIED, SECOND AMERICAN POSITION-- SECRETARY--SHOULD BE OFFERED TO OFFICER'S WIFE IF SHE IS QUALIFIED. SMALL USIS LIBRARY, WHICH WOULD BE SUPER-VISED BY USIS NAIROBI, COULD BE SATISFACTORILY STAFFED BY LOCALLY HIRED AMERICAN. EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE NEEDS COULD PROBABLY INITIALLY BE MET BY ONE WELL-EDUCATED LOCAL EMPLOYEE (WHO COULD ALSO ASSIST IN SUPPORTING U.S. NAVY VISITS TO SEYCHELLES) AND ONE CHAUFFEUR/HANDYMAN EMPLOYEE.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND LOGISTICS. WE BELIEVE CONSULATE/ EMBASSY COULD BE HELD TO SMALL SIZE OUTLINED ABOVE IF CONFIDENTIAL

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TRACKING STATION WERE WILLING TO PROVIDE CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED TELEGRAM AND POUCH SERVICE. EMBASSY PERSONNEL COULD REDUCE THIS BURDEN BY DELIVERY AND PICK-UP AT TRACKING STATION AND BY PARTICIPATING, IF NEEDED, IN PRESENT NON-PROFESSIONAL COURIER SERVICE TO NAIROBI. IN ADDITION, EXTENSION OF APO, PX, AND COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES TO AMERICANS IN EMBASSY WOULD LESSEN NEED FOR EMBASSY STAFF TO BE CONCERNED EXCESSIVELY WITH LOGISTIC MATTERS. ON

OTHER SIDE OF COIN, ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSY SHOULD LESSEN
BURDEN NOW IMPOSED ON TRACKING STATION TO SERVE AS
CHANNEL FOR DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATION WITH SEYCHELLES
AUTHORITIES, TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR U.S. NAVY VISITS, AND
TO PROVIDE CONSULAR SERVICES TO U.S. CITIZENS. I WISH
AT THIS POINT TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP APPRECIATION FOR
COMMENDABLE MANNER IN WHICH TRACKING STATION HAS FOR YEARS
PERFORMED THESE SERVICES ON OUR BEHALF. HOWEVER, I
BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO EXPECT TRACKING STATION
TO CONTINUE MUCH LONGER TO SHOULDER WORK BURDEN WHICH
IS RAPIDLY INCREASING WITH APPROACH OF INDEPENDENCE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NAIROBI 0651

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5. CONSULATE OFFICE AND HOUSING REQUIREMENTS. DURING
JANUARY 15-18 VISIT TO SEYCHELLES, DCM WAS ASSURED BY
GOVERNOR ALLEN THAT BRITISH AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE NO
OBJECTION TO OUR LEASING OFFICE AND HOUSING SPACE FOR

EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULATE. IN FACT, HE RECOMMENDED THAT WE BEGIN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE THESE FACILITIES AND TO AVOID INEVITABLE CRUSH WHICH WILL COME WHEN OTHER COUNTRIES ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH MISSIONS IN SEYCHELLES. INITIALLY, WE BELIEVE CONSULATE COULD BE ESTABLISHED IF WE ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN FIVE ROOMS IN EXISTING OFFICE BUILDING AND SEPARATE SMALL GROUND FLOOR SHOP FOR USIS LIBRARY. HOUSING NEEDS, IF WORKING COUPLE FOUND, COULD BE LIMITED TO LEASING OF ONE HOUSE SUITABLE FOR REPRESENTATION. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN PROPOSAL, I WOULD LIKE TO SEND AMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR BROWN TO SEYCHELLES
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IN MARCH OR APRIL WITH AUTHORITY TO LEASE OFFICE SPACE AND HOUSING NEEDED.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY AND FAVORABLE DECISION ON THIS PROPOSAL. INFO ADDRESSEES -- PARTICULARLY DET 4 AND AFSCF LOS ANGELES -- MAY ALSO WISH TO COMMENT.
MARSHALL

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